

United States Bankruptcy Court

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Case Number: 11-10472-SR

Courtroom #1

In the matter of:

900 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Date: June 07, 2011

STUART ROBERT HANSEN,

Time: 10:32

Debtor.

Motion to Dismiss Case

BEFORE THE HONORABLE STEPHEN RASLAVICH
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

Appearances:

David B. Smith, Esq.

Counsel for Debtor

Michael Gallagher, Esq.
Andrew Milz, Esq.

Counsel for Rosalyn Hansen

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1 THE COURT: This leaves the Hansen matter.

2 Come on up folks.

3 MR. GALLAGHER: Good morning, your Honor,

4 Michael Gallagher for Rosalyn Hansen.

5 THE COURT: Good morning.

6 MR. SMITH: Good morning your Honor, David

7 Smith on behalf of Stuart Hansen.

8 MR. MILZ: Andrew Milz on behalf of Rosalyn

9 Hansen your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Okay, good morning.

11 Well when we were here on the 24th I

12 indicated to you that I would issue a decision

13 on the motion to dismiss the case when we

14 reconvened this morning. I am aware that a

15 motion to convert the case from Chapter 7 to

16 Chapter 11 was filed at 17 minutes past midnight

17 this morning. In the papers Mr. Smith you

18 accurately observed it, pursuant to our local

19 rules a motion to convert such as was filed may

20 be addressed by the Court without a hearing. I

21 will view that. The motion will be denied for

22 reasons that I will address. But, I think in

23 order to do that it is appropriate that I give

24 you the decision that I promised you with

25 respect to the motion to dismiss this case as a

1 Chapter 7 case for the reason that a great deal
2 of the facts and legal principles germane to the
3 motion to dismiss the case - - excuse me the
4 motion to convert the case are implicated in the
5 motion to dismiss the case. That is to say that
6 there is a substantial degree of overlapping in
7 connection with the factors, objective factors
8 that courts consider in evaluating the requisite
9 good faith requirement that exists in the
10 context of the case under Chapter 7 as well as
11 the case under Chapter 11.

12 So, before I address the motion to convert
13 I'm going to address the motion to dismiss.

14 Typically I would, in a case like this,
15 have reduced the ruling to a writing but as I
16 explained to you when we adjourned when we were
17 here last I was going to be out last week and
18 frankly my computer skills are such that it was
19 not possible for me to prepare the more
20 traditional written opinion for your benefit,
21 but I assure you that I studied the record at
22 great length and under the circumstances I will
23 read to you the decision and you will allow the
24 transcript to serve as the memorialization of
25 the ruling on both matters.

1 So, with that further ado if you'll bear
2 with me for a second. All right.

3 The Court has before it a motion to dismiss
4 this bankruptcy case for cause under Bankruptcy
5 Code Section 707a. This contested matter is a
6 core proceeding under this Court's jurisdiction
7 as set forth in Section 157 of Title 28. This
8 bench ruling will constitute this Court's
9 findings of fact and conclusions of law as
10 required by Bankruptcy Rule 7052. Bankruptcy
11 Code section 707a provides that after notice and
12 a hearing the Bankruptcy Court may dismiss a
13 Chapter 7 case for cause and it gives three
14 illustrative, that is to say non-exclusive
15 examples of cause which would justify the
16 dismissal of a Chapter 7 case. They are one,
17 unreasonable delay by the debtor which is
18 prejudicial to creditors, two of nonpayment of
19 required fees, and three, failure to file with
20 the court the information required of the debtor
21 under Bankruptcy Code section 521.

22 As stated is asked examples are merely
23 illustrative in the court may dismiss a Chapter
24 7 case on other grounds one causes found to
25 exist. The court has substantial discretion

1 in ruling on a motion to dismiss a case under
2 sections 707a, and in exercising that
3 discretion. The court must consider extenuating
4 circumstances as well as the interests of the
5 various parties. In this circuit the seminal
6 case on point is In re Tamecki. The Third
7 Circuit Court of Appeals decision issued in the
8 year 2000 and reported at 229 Fed 3rd beginning
9 at page 205.

10 In Tamecki the Circuit Court observed that
11 the Bankruptcy Code does not define good faith.
12 But, it noted that the courts in this circuit
13 have uniformly held that at the very least good
14 faith requires a showing of honest intention.
15 That said are Circuit Court also noted with
16 approval an earlier decision by the Sixth
17 Circuit Court of Appeals wherein that circuit
18 court cautioned that a dismissal based on lack
19 of good faith should be confined carefully and
20 generally utilized only in those egregious cases
21 that entail concealed or misrepresented assets
22 and/or sources of income, lavish lifestyles, and
23 the intention to avoid a large single debt based
24 upon conduct which is akin to fraud misconduct
25 or gross negligence.

1 The court's inquiry will be an ad hoc one
2 wherein the court must ascertain whether the
3 petitioner has abused the provisions purpose or
4 spirit of Bankruptcy law. The court's inquiry
5 is to follow a nonrestrictive approach and it is
6 to be an intensive inquiry taking into account
7 the totality of the facts and the circumstances.
8 Our Circuit Court has held and the parties
9 themselves have acknowledged that once a party
10 calls into question a Petitioner's good faith
11 the burden shifts to the Petitioner to prove his
12 good faith.

13 Recently in this district a set of 14
14 objective factors which courts have considered
15 in the context of a good faith analysis was
16 described. The decision to which I refer is the
17 case of In re Glunk which is reported at 342
18 Bankruptcy Reporter beginning at page 717, a
19 2006 opinion of my colleague Judge Frank.

20 The utilization of objective indicia of
21 good faith or the absence thereof is typically
22 appropriate I indeed recourse to circumstantial
23 evidence will generally be necessary as the
24 Debtor will rarely acknowledge that he or she is
25 proceeding in good faith.

With that in mind the Court in Glunk described the following 14 indicia. 1. Whether the debtor has reduced his creditors to a single creditor in the months prior to filing his petition; 2. Whether the debtor failed to make lifestyle adjustments or continued living an expansive or lavish lifestyle; 3. Whether the debtor filed the case in response to a judgment pending litigation; 4. Whether the debtor made no effort to repay his debts; 5. the unfairness of the use of the debtor of Chapter 7; 6. Whether the debtor has sufficient resources to pay his debts; 7. Whether the debtor is paying debts to insiders; 8. Whether the schedules inflate expenses to disguise financial well-being; 9. Whether the debtor transferred assets; 10. Whether the debtor is over-utilizing the protection of the Code to the unconscionable detriment of creditors; 11. Whether the debtor employed a deliberate and persistent pattern of evading a single major creditor; 12. Whether the debtor failed to make candid and full disclosure to the court and creditors; 13. Whether the debts are modest in relation to assets and income; and lastly, 14. Whether there are

1 multiple bankruptcy filings or other procedural
2 "gymnastics."

3 Against the back drop of the foregoing
4 authorities the Court has considered the
5 evidentiary record it has before it, the same
6 having been made at a hearing held on May 24,
7 2011. Having done so the Court has concluded
8 with little hesitancy that this case presents
9 one of the most egregious instances of a bad
10 faith filing that the Court has been witness to
11 in over 17 years.

12 Indeed, the evidence of this is
13 overwhelming. And evidence of practically every
14 single one of the 14 factors articulated in the
15 Glunk decision is present in this record.

16 The Movant is Rosalyn Hansen. She is the
17 Debtor's sister-in-law and holds a judgment
18 against him in the approximate amount of \$1.2
19 million. The judgment was entered against the
20 Debtor in a lawsuit in the Court of Common Pleas
21 of Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

22 The lawsuit was instituted by Rosalyn
23 Hansen in July of 2003. In the lawsuit this
24 Hansen asserted that the debtor unlawfully
25 failed to pay her the proceeds of a \$1 million

1 life insurance policy after the death of her
2 husband who was the debtor's brother and a
3 business partner. The insurance payment was
4 intended for the purpose of compensating Ms.
5 Hansen for her late husband's one half interest
6 in the Hansen brothers business which was a
7 wholesale paper brokerage firm called The Hansen
8 Paper Company. An initial verdict against the
9 debtor was entered on April 21, 2006 after a
10 bench trial before the Honorable Charles Byrd,
11 II. That's movant's Exhibit 1. The state
12 court's opinion in support of its verdict is
13 movant's Exhibit 2. The judgment was later
14 modified to reflect offsets and as I just noted
15 it is now in the approximate amount of \$1.2
16 million reference here is made to Movant's
17 Exhibit 3.

18 Thereafter Ms. Hansen attempted to execute
19 on the judgment by levying on among other
20 things, the stock of the paper company, which
21 company the debtor had by then incorporated.
22 The Debtor defiantly refused to turn over the
23 shares to the Sherriff of Delaware County
24 forcing the Movant, Ms. Hansen, to apply for
25 supplementary relief in aide of execution.

1 Her petition was granted by the State Court
2 in June of 2010. The State Court's June order
3 and subsequent opinion denying an appeal thereof
4 are Movant's Exhibits 5 and 6. Of significance,
5 in appealing the grant of the Movant's request
6 for aide and execution, the Debtor specifically
7 argued that the stock of the Hansen paper
8 company was immune from execution and levy
9 because the stock was held by he and his wife as
10 tenants by the entireties and that the State
11 Court had heard in directing the turnover of the
12 shares for that reason.

13 The State Court, however, specifically
14 considered and rejected that very argument
15 drawing on lengthy excerpts from its own prior
16 opinion issued following the Debtor's appeal
17 from the denial of post trial motions, the State
18 Court held that the Debtor had never had the
19 legal right to convey half of the paper company
20 shares to his wife without payment to the Movant
21 for her late husband's interest in the business.

22 In this respect the State Court considered
23 and dismissed a January 2002 stock certificate
24 offered by the Debtor which purported to reflect
25 that the Debtor and his wife had jointly owned

1 the corporation since 2002. The Court stated
2 that the unauthenticated newly discovered
3 evidence was not genuine and was unreliable.
4 The Court in this respect also stressed, 1. That
5 as recently as 2008 the paper companies Federal
6 income tax return listed the Debtor, Mr. Hansen,
7 as its sole owner and two, that at her
8 deposition in March of 2010 the Debtor's spouse
9 testified under oath that she did not consider
10 herself an owner of the business and the company
11 was owned by the Debtor alone.

12 Of particular import is the August 31, 2010
13 opinion the State Court issued in support of its
14 denial of the Debtor's appeal of the Court's
15 granting of Ms. Hansen's petition for
16 supplemental relief in aid of execution. The
17 opinion is an absolutely scathing denunciation
18 of the Debtor's actions both in connection with
19 his original misconduct in misappropriating the
20 life insurance proceeds to himself, but also in
21 connection with his subsequent machinations to
22 avoid having to pay the judgment debt.

23 This conduct was described by the court as
24 being willful and malicious. The state court
25 opined that, "in short, there was no reason for

1 the debtor not to pay the Movant besides his own
2 unmitigated avarice and greed."

3 Undaunted the debtor sought a stay of a
4 state court order directing the turnover of the
5 stock. In November of 2010 the request was
6 granted by the state court conditioned upon the
7 posting of a bond in the amount of
8 \$1,414,669.69. It appears that the debtor
9 appealed this decision to the Pennsylvania
10 Superior Court which, on December 14, 2010,
11 issued a similar order that is to say it granted
12 the debtor a stay conditioned upon the posting
13 of a bond in the amount that the Common Pleas
14 Court had directed. The stay was dissolved by
15 the Superior Court on January 5, 2011 after the
16 debtor failed to post a bond.

17 Still unbowed the debtor continued to defy
18 the state court order directing him to turn over
19 the stock certificates. Ms. Hansen thereupon
20 filed what was her second motion to have the
21 debtor held in contempt and sought related
22 injunctive relief including the appointment of a
23 receiver for the paper company.

24 On January 14, 2011 the State Court issued
25 a rule to show cause relative to this request

1 and scheduled a hearing thereon for January 27,
2 2011. The Debtor commenced his voluntary
3 Chapter 7 case on January 24, 2011 three days
4 before the scheduled hearing.

5 The Movant here seeks dismissal of this
6 case arguing that it is part of the Debtor's
7 continuing effort to evade the State Court's
8 order and perpetuate a fraud on Ms. Hansen and
9 the Court. The Debtor respondent denies this
10 arguing that he is simply attempting to avail
11 himself of his legal rights under the Bankruptcy
12 Code and that nothing about his conduct is
13 improper.

14 As will be discussed, the Debtor's argument
15 is completely without merit. Indeed as I have
16 previously noted the evidence against him is
17 positively overwhelming.

18 Analyzing any set of facts against 14
19 factors such as those that I described in In re
20 Glunk can be a bit unwieldy. The Court in the
21 Glunk case itself recognize that ended therefore
22 condensed and combined 14 factors it had
23 identified down into a group of five based on
24 what it implied with some overlapping. The
25 five condensed factors are, one the debtor's

1 extravagant lifestyle and ability to pay. The
2 Glunk court said that it implicated of the 14
3 factors, factors one, two, four, six, seven and
4 13. Condensed factor number two is the
5 disproportionate impact that bankruptcy relief
6 would have on one particular creditor or only a
7 few creditors as compared to other creditors.

8 This factor it said had implicated factors
9 one, three, seven and 11 of the 14 factors.
10 Condensed factor three was whether there was
11 evidence of forum shopping or efforts to
12 manipulate the judicial process to thwart the
13 orderly determination of a creditor claim
14 pending in another court. The Glunk court said
15 that this implicated factors 11 and 14.

16 The fourth condensed factor was whether
17 there was pre-petition fraudulent conduct to
18 place assets beyond the reach of creditors for
19 less than full and candid disclosure in the
20 Bankruptcy process itself. The Glunk Court
21 indicated that this implicated factors 8, 9, 12
22 and 14.

23 Finally, condensed factor five was whether
24 the end result, as to say if Bankruptcy Relief
25 were to be permitted might be perceived to be

1 fundamentally unfair or excessive. The Glunk
2 court indicated that that implicated of the 14
3 factors, factors number 5 and 10.

4 In the Glunk case, the Court noted that the
5 Court could dismiss a case for any of the five
6 categories which it had described, but that in
7 its view the five factors were not all of equal
8 weight and only that a rare case would warrant
9 dismissal absent some evidence of misconduct by
10 the Debtor which implicated condensed factors
11 three and four. There's little need for concern
12 on that score herein because evidence of all
13 five of the categories described in Glunk is
14 manifested clear on this record including most
15 particularly, categories three and four which is
16 where the Court will begin.

17 The evidentiary record is replete with
18 un rebutted evidence that the Debtor actively
19 sought to place assets beyond the reach of the
20 only creditor making a claim on them, that is to
21 say the Movant herein, Rosalyn Hansen. The
22 state court in its opinion was express and
23 particularly harsh on this very point. The
24 misconduct described included, among other
25 things, illegally moving individually held

1 assets to joint ownership with his spouse,
2 diversion of funds from the paper company,
3 blatantly misrepresenting the financial
4 condition of both himself and the paper company.
5 The Movant argues that the conduct described has
6 continued herein. In this respect the Movant
7 points to the fact that despite the entry of a
8 final judgment by a court of competent
9 jurisdiction finding that the debtor alone owns
10 the paper company, the debtor scheduled the
11 paper company as a jointly owned asset in this
12 bankruptcy case and then assigned it a
13 liquidation value of zero and then claimed a 100
14 percent exemption in the allegedly worthless
15 asset.

16 Leaving aside the debtor's outrageous
17 prepetition conduct this action implicates the
18 debtors post position conduct and the question
19 of whether the debtor has made less than full
20 and candid disclosure in connection with the
21 papers filed in his bankruptcy case. The
22 debtor's position in his sworn bankruptcy
23 filings stands in such stark contrast to pre-
24 bankruptcy events that it compels particular
25 scrutiny.

1 The Movant for her part anticipated this
2 and filed a motion in limine prior to the May 24
3 hearing seeking an order from this Court
4 precluding the debtor from offering testimony or
5 other evidence intended to prove that the stock
6 of the paper company was a joint as opposed to
7 an individual asset. The debtor filed no
8 written response to the motion but counsel for
9 the parties offered argument on this point at
10 the outset of the May 24 hearing.

11 The Movant argued that the Debtor was
12 collaterally estopped from contesting the fact
13 that he alone owns the paper company. In this
14 regard the Movant argued that the four part test
15 for the invocation of issue preclusion is
16 satisfied and that the issue of ownership arose
17 in the state court lawsuit. The issue was
18 actually litigated. The determination of
19 ownership was essential to the final judgment of
20 the State Court and the Debtor was represented
21 by Counsel.

22 Of these four factors, the Debtor takes
23 issue with only one. That being the question of
24 whether the ownership issue was actually
25 litigated. The Debtor contends that it was not.

1 However, the state court in its August 31, 2010
2 opinion addressed itself to this very contention
3 at length.

4 In this respect the State Court noted that
5 in its 2006 opinion it had expressly held that
6 the Debtor had no authority to convey his
7 brother's one half interest in the paper company
8 to anyone until he had legally obtained title to
9 it himself, something which he had never done.

10 As a consequence, any claim to an ownership
11 interest on the part of the Debtor's spouse had
12 to fail. The Debtor nevertheless argued that
13 the state court erred in failing to hold a
14 fuller hearing that it did on the question of
15 the stock ownership in the context of the
16 petition then before it because it was required
17 to do so under Pennsylvania Rule of Civil
18 Procedure 3118a. Again, however, the State
19 Court considered this argument and similarly
20 rejected it noting that controlling Pennsylvania
21 law holds that a fuller hearing such as the
22 Debtor desired was unnecessary and not mandated
23 where there were no issues of fact for the Court
24 to resolve in the proceedings before it the
25 Debtor was already bound by the State Court's

1 2006 determination that any purported transfer
2 of an ownership interest in the paper company by
3 the Debtor to his spouse was illegal.
4 Principles of res judicata applied to that
5 finding. The court also noted however that
6 even if a fuller hearing had been conducted the
7 paper company's 2008 tax return, which listed
8 the debtor as its sole owner, together with the
9 sworn testimony of the debtor's own spouse who
10 disavowed any ownership interest in the company
11 would have been conclusive on the point in
12 question.

13 This court is bound to observe and not
14 disturb the state courts 2006 decision as to the
15 legality of the debtor's conduct by virtue of
16 the Rooker Feldman doctrine. Similarly, for the
17 reasons which the state court itself expressed,
18 this Court found on May 24th that the question
19 of the stock ownership had actually been
20 litigated for purposes of its collateral
21 estoppel effect. Accordingly, the Movant's
22 motion in limine to preclude the re-litigation
23 of that issue in the course of this contested
24 matter was granted.

25 The upshot of that is that the Debtor's

1 bankruptcy schedules are materially false. This
2 is not the only flaw in the schedules, however.
3 As noted on Schedule B the Debtor valued the
4 paper company business on a liquidation basis
5 and claims its value to be zero. Meanwhile,
6 Movant's exhibits 40 and 42 are the paper
7 company's 2008 and 2009 Federal Income Tax
8 returns. In 2008 the paper company reported
9 gross revenues of over \$20 million. In 2009 the
10 paper company reported gross revenues of just
11 under \$22 million. For years, the paper company
12 has paid the Debtor compensation of between
13 \$400,000 and \$500,000 per year. To make matters
14 worse, for years the Debtor failed to report a
15 significant amount of this compensation for tax
16 purposes.

17 It was only when the company's accountant
18 would apparently no longer turn a blind eye to
19 payments being made to the Debtor that were
20 carried on the company's books as a advances,
21 but which the company's accountant readily
22 acknowledged under oath in open court to be
23 compensation that the paper company began
24 submitting IRS form 1099 to the Debtor for the
25 payments in question.

1 To make matters worse yet in a thin attempt
2 to clean the situation up, the Debtor created a
3 promissory note for the years of payments to him
4 which the company had deducted and the Debtor
5 had failed to report. Leaving aside what bears
6 every indicia of being blatant tax fraud, it is
7 utterly preposterous in the extreme for the
8 debtor to maintain as he does that the company
9 is essentially worthless. The state court in
10 its written opinions explored this chapter of
11 this sorted of chronicle in great detail. For
12 present purposes it will suffice to emphasize
13 that it is yet another glaring misrepresentation
14 on the Debtor's part in this case.

15 The Court turns here from factor four, that
16 is to say whether there is evidence of pre-
17 petition fraudulent conduct to place assets
18 beyond the reach of creditors for less than full
19 and candid disclosure in the bankruptcy process
20 itself to factor three which is whether there is
21 evidence of forum shopping or efforts to
22 manipulate the judicial process to thwart the
23 orderly determination of a creditor claim
24 pending in another court.

25 Once again, the case against the Debtor is

1 exceedingly strong. There can be no question
2 that the Debtor defiantly refused to submit to
3 lawful orders of the State Court following many
4 years of litigation. When the day of reckoning
5 was finally at hand, the Debtor filed this
6 Chapter 7 case to avoid it. There could
7 scarcely be a clearer case of forum shopping and
8 abusive behavior.

9 Astonishingly the Debtor himself
10 acknowledged on more than one occasion under
11 oath during the course of the March 24 hearing
12 that the reason that he commenced this
13 bankruptcy case was to evade having to pay the
14 judgment his sister-in-law holds against him.
15 He had offered her \$250,000 payable for 50
16 months and he is apparently incensed that she
17 will not accept his offer in compromise because
18 he views himself to be the true victim.

19 Based on these factors alone, the present
20 case well warrants dismissal but still there is
21 more. Factor number one speaks to the Debtor's
22 lavish lifestyle and his ability to pay its
23 creditors. The evidence brought forth at the
24 hearing on May 24 on this factor was little
25 short of shocking. It was established beyond

1 question that the Debtor lives in a waterfront
2 mansion on the Corsica River in Centerville,
3 Maryland. In a November 2009 deposition the
4 Debtor testified that the home had been
5 appraised at \$4 million. In this case the
6 Debtor has listed value of the home at
7 \$2,348,000 which he says is based on its
8 assessed value.

9 The Debtor lists ownership of \$764,145
10 personal property including over \$700,000 in a
11 profit sharing plan. Amazingly, indeed, almost
12 beyond belief, in November of 2010 just two
13 short months before commencing this case the
14 Debtor purchased a \$72,000 brand new 2011 BMW
15 automobile. The purported justification for
16 this extravagance was to obtain better gas
17 mileage. The Debtor also owns a vintage antique
18 auto valued at over \$25,000. A third late model
19 SUV valued at over \$36,000. The Debtor owns
20 three boats collectively valued in excess of
21 \$80,000. He belongs to the Marrium Cricket
22 Club, a fishing club and a yacht club. The
23 Debtor lists average monthly income of just
24 under \$25,000. His housing expenses alone are
25 roughly \$14,000 per month.

1 Over and above that he pays his wife's
2 credit card bill and has for years paid his
3 child's college expenses, a fact which is not
4 disclosed on the Debtor's schedules. Indeed the
5 Debtor's schedule of expenses recites the
6 payment of \$2,000 per month for dependents not
7 living at home but the Debtor's Schedule I
8 recites that he has no dependants.

9 In sum, the evidence established that the
10 Debtor lives a positively opulent lifestyle. He
11 clearly made no downward adjustments to whatever
12 prior to commencing this case and he proposes to
13 simply continue living an opulent lifestyle
14 after this case only in an enhanced position
15 having rid himself of the Movant's claim against
16 him.

17 This implicates factor number 2 from the
18 condensed Glunk opinion factors. That is to say
19 whether there is a disproportionate impact the
20 bankruptcy relief would have on one particular
21 creditor as compared to other creditors.

22 The evidence established that the Movant is
23 presently unemployed, it has an income of
24 roughly \$50,000 a year in social security and a
25 few other miscellaneous sources. She is paying

1 parent expenses from dwindling savings and has
2 children with medical issues. The Movant is the
3 Debtor's principal creditor.

4 It seems clear that in anticipation of his
5 bankruptcy filing the Debtor ran up a few credit
6 card balances to create the illusion of having
7 other creditors. The Court views this as a
8 transparent sham in as much as the paper company
9 historically paid all of the Debtor's rather
10 substantial credit card charges.

11 The only other unsecured debt which the
12 Debtor lists is the alleged loan he created with
13 his own company. The Debtor lists a first
14 mortgage on his residence of approximately \$1.7
15 million. Other things being equal there is
16 significant equity in that property even using
17 the Debtor's suspect valuation.

18 The Debtor, however, lists a second and a
19 third mortgage, each in favor of the paper
20 company's bank together totally approximately
21 \$600,000. This would exhaust the equity using
22 the Debtor's valuation. However, in her moving
23 papers, the Movant states that at a Section 341
24 meeting of creditors, the Debtor conceded that
25 the larger, second mortgage was not in fact a

1 secured loan but was a contingent claim for a
2 guarantee of a business loan which had not been
3 called.

4 In his answer to the Movant's motion the
5 Debtor acknowledged that his schedules were
6 inaccurate but the answer is otherwise
7 incomplete. At the hearing the Debtor offered
8 numerous exhibits in support of his position but
9 offered nothing whatever on the issue of the
10 business loan. But the Court here has digressed
11 somewhat. The point at issue is a consideration
12 of the relative impact the Debtor's discharge
13 would have on him versus other creditors and his
14 principal creditor the Movant, Rosalyn Hansen.

15 The answer is clear and totally without
16 doubt. The debtor has no other creditors that
17 would be impacted if this case is dismissed and
18 the debtor is forced to pay the movant's
19 judgment. It seems abundantly clear that from
20 his assets and income the debtor has the means
21 to pay the claim, but simply stubbornly refuses
22 to do so believing himself to be a victim.

23 The State Court, however, has found against
24 him on this point in the strongest possible
25 terms. The Debtor it is clear nevertheless is

1 prepared to try anything to avoid having face
2 this reality. Against the many challenges to
3 his good faith the Debtor offered virtually
4 nothing in the way of probative, persuasive
5 evidence of his good faith. Allowing this case
6 to go forward will have a devastating impact on
7 the Movant and a discharge of her judgment would
8 bestow an enormous undeserved windfall on the
9 Debtor.

10 It is worth emphasizing here that in this
11 ruling the Court has not even discussed a
12 variety of other facts brought forth at the
13 evidentiary hearing, confining its discussion
14 here only to the more egregious aspects of the
15 case. Suffice it to say, however, that in
16 reviewing the evidence the Court could not
17 discern one single factor which favored the
18 Debtor. It bears remembering, therefore, that as
19 the Debtor's good faith was legitimately placed
20 in issue, he bore the burden of establishing it.
21 But, he failed to so scarcely begins to state
22 the case.

23 In any event, this bring the Court to a
24 consideration of a final factor articulated by
25 the Court in the Glunk decision and that is

1 whether bankruptcy relief will produce a result
2 which is fundamentally unfair. Unquestionably
3 the answer is yes. As stated at the outset,
4 this Court has never seen a case so demonstrably
5 at odds with the provisions, purpose and spirit
6 of the Bankruptcy Code. To permit this case to
7 proceed would be utterly unconscionable.

8 The Court is prepared therefore to grant
9 the motion to dismiss. But prior to doing so in
10 light of the procedural gymnastic put into play
11 at 17 minutes past midnight this morning, it is
12 necessary to address the Debtor's belated motion
13 to convert this case to a case under Chapter 11.

14 Now, as I indicated the Debtor observes
15 correctly that under our Local Rules this is a
16 matter that can be disposed of without the need
17 for a hearing but I will address myself to a
18 variety of issues germane to the motion.

19 In doing so I do note that I have just
20 recently had occasion to write on the subject of
21 good faith requirement in a Chapter 11 case.
22 The Philadelphia Rittenhouse Developer, 2011
23 Bankruptcy Lexus 1930 May 25, 2011. In that
24 decision I point out that under the SGL Carbon
25 Decision in the Third Circuit there is a good

1 faith filing requirement for Chapter 11 and in
2 the moving papers for conversion Mr. Smith, you
3 observe that the Supreme Court itself has
4 recently addressed the question of whether there
5 is an absolute right to convert the case, the
6 Supreme Court decision being Marama (phonetic)
7 v. Citizens Bank of Massachusetts cited in 2007.
8 You point out correctly that that case, that
9 decision was issued in the context of an attempt
10 to convert a Chapter 7 case to a Chapter 13
11 case. You go on to urge the Court, this Court,
12 to narrowly apply the Marama decision to only
13 those situations where a Chapter 7 debtor is
14 seeking to convert a case to a Chapter 13. I
15 decline to do so.

16 I believe the principles that animate the
17 Marama decision are equally applicable in the
18 context of a proposed conversion from Chapter 7
19 to 11. I can see no reason why they would not
20 be. Astonishingly you recited paragraph 12, the
21 Debtor submits that irrespective of the
22 articulated grounds for dismissal set forth in
23 Section 1112b 4 there were no grounds whatsoever
24 proven at the hearing on the instant dismissal
25 motion or otherwise that no such grounds exist.

1 That is an absolutely absurd proposition.

2 In any event in Marama the Court denied the
3 Chapter 7 Debtor's attempt to convert to Chapter
4 13 pointing out that if dismissal would occur
5 under the Chapter to which the case was proposed
6 to be converted it would be as if the Debtor
7 could not be a debtor under that Chapter thereby
8 implicating a prohibition on conversion.

9 Having had occasion just recently to
10 evaluate the good faith standard as it arises in
11 the context of Chapter 11 it is once again
12 overwhelmingly clear that this case would be
13 dismissed under Chapter 11. If I can just turn
14 to that opinion. There is a substantial
15 overlapping of the objective factors which
16 inform the analysis of whether debtor is
17 proceeding in good faith in Chapter 11 as
18 contrasted with Chapter 7 just to list them.

19 Here I was reciting factors such as were
20 articulated in the case of S.B. properties 185
21 Bankruptcy Reporter 198 Eastern District of
22 Pennsylvania 1995. The Courts are instructed to
23 look at whether the Debtor has few or no
24 unsecured creditors, whether prepetition conduct
25 of the Debtor has been improper, whether the

1 petition effectively allows the Debtor to evade
2 Court orders, whether there are few debts to
3 non-moving creditors, whether the petition was
4 filed on the eve of foreclosure, whether there
5 was pressure from non-moving creditors, whether
6 the Debtor filed solely to create an automatic
7 stay.

8 These are all in my view different ways of
9 articulating the Glunk factors. This case would
10 be dismissed without hesitancy under Chapter 11.
11 Accordingly, based on the Marama decision the
12 Debtor would be an ineligible debtor under
13 Chapter 11, hence the motion to convert will be
14 denied and an appropriate order dismissing the
15 Chapter 7 case will be entered.

16 All right, thank you. Anything further?

17 MR. GALLAGHER: Nothing further your Honor.
18 One question, the order dismissing would that be
19 a effective upon entry or effective immediately?

20 THE COURT: It will be effective as soon as
21 I sign the order.

22 MR. MILTZ: Thank you your Honor.

23 (Whereupon, the matter was concluded.)
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Michele Hasso, a transcriptionist and
Notary Public within the State of New York, do
hereby certify that this transcript is a true and
accurate transcript transcribed from the
electronic tape recording, to the best of my
ability and belief.

/s/

Michele N. Hasso

Dated: June 13, 2011